

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1625

4  
5 By: Representative G. Smith  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PREVENT HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS AND DEATH IN  
9 CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATE IN PEE-WEE ATHLETICS; AND  
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

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14 TO PREVENT HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS AND DEATH  
15 IN CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATE IN PEE-WEE  
16 ATHLETICS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) Heat-related illness and death in children is preventable;

23 (2) Coaches and parents must be aware of the potential hazards  
24 of high-intensity exercise in hot or humid climates and take measures to  
25 prevent heat-related illness and death in children;

26 (3) According to the leading pediatric literature published by  
27 the Committee on Sports Medicine and Fitness of the American Academy of  
28 Pediatrics, exercising children do not adapt to extremes in temperatures as  
29 effectively as adults because children:

30 (A) Have a greater surface area-to-body mass ratio than  
31 adults;

32 (B) Produce more metabolic heat per mass unit than adults  
33 during physical activities; and

34 (C) Have a considerably lower sweating capacity than  
35 adults, which reduces their ability to dissipate body heat by evaporation;  
36 and



1           (4) Limiting the activities of children in times of high heat or  
2 humidity is recommended by leading experts.

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4           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 7, Subchapter 1 is amended  
5 to add an additional section to read as follows:

6           20-7-136. Limitations on practice time for pee-wee athletics.

7           (a) As used in this section:

8                 (1) "Coach" means the person who requires attendance at or  
9 conducts practice time for pee-wee athletics;

10                (2) "Heat index" means the human-perceived equivalent  
11 temperature that is determined by combining the air temperature and relative  
12 humidity;

13                (3)(A) "Pee-wee athletics" means an organized sports activity  
14 for which membership is limited to children ten (10) years of age or younger.

15                    (B) "Pee-wee athletics" includes without limitation:

16                         (i) Soccer;

17                         (ii) Softball;

18                         (iii) Baseball;

19                         (iv) Football; and

20                         (v) Basketball.

21                    (C) "Pee-wee athletics" does not include an organized  
22 sports activity affiliated with a public or private school at the fifth grade  
23 level or higher; and

24                 (4)(A) "Practice time" means the time spent training and  
25 preparing for games, and includes time spent both indoors and outdoors.

26                    (B) "Practice time" does not include game time.

27                 (b)(1) If the ambient temperature or heat index is seventy-five  
28 degrees Fahrenheit (75°F) but not more than eighty degrees Fahrenheit (80°F),  
29 practice time for pee-wee athletics shall be limited to no more than two (2)  
30 sessions each day that last thirty (30) minutes with a ten-minute break  
31 between each session.

32                 (2)(A) If the ambient temperature or heat index is at least  
33 eighty-one degrees Fahrenheit (81°F) but not more than eighty-four degrees  
34 Fahrenheit (84°F), practice time for pee-wee athletics shall be limited to no  
35 more than three (3) sessions each day that last fifteen (15) minutes with a  
36 ten-minute break between each session.

1                   (B) Outdoor practice time for pee-wee athletics under this  
2 subdivision (b)(2) is prohibited between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00  
3 p.m.

4                   (3) If the ambient temperature or heat index is at or above  
5 eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit, practice time for pee-wee athletics is  
6 prohibited.

7                   (c)(1) If the practice time is outdoors, the outdoor ambient  
8 temperature or heat index for an area on a specific date shall be determined  
9 by the National Weather Service.

10                   (2) If the practice time is indoors, the indoor ambient  
11 temperature shall be determined by the thermostat that controls the heating  
12 and cooling for the practice area of the building or an ambient thermometer.

13                   (3) Temperatures shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

14                   (d) The coach of pee-wee athletics shall have water or sports drinks  
15 available for all of the children to help reduce the risk of heat-related  
16 illness or death.

17                   (e) If a coach violates this section, the parent of a child who is a  
18 member of the team is entitled to a full refund of all fees and costs  
19 associated with the registration of the child for the pee-wee athletic  
20 organization for that season.

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